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Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B.V.
% Haseltine Lake & Co
Imperial House
15-19 Kingsway
LONDON
WC2B 6UD

HASELTINE LAKE & CO
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Concept House
Cardiff Road, Newport
South Wales NP10 8QQ

Examiner: 01633 814751
†**E-mail:** dave.pepper@patent.gov.uk
Switchboard: 01633 814000
Fax: 01633 814444
Minicom: 08459 222250
DX 722540/41 Cleppa Park 3
http://www.patent.gov.uk

Your Reference: HL74401/ASG/LS
Application No: GB 0004285.3

28 August 2002

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977: Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Latest date for reply: 28 February 2003

I enclose two copies of my examination report.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the enclosed report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

You should note that the normal unextended period allowed for complying fully with the requirements of the Act will end on 28 August 2003, that is 12 months after the date of this letter.

Yours faithfully

David Pepper
Examiner

†**Use of E-mail:** Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.

Your ref:	HL74401/ASG/LS	**Examiner:**	David Pepper
Application No:	GB 0004285.3	**Tel:**	01633 814751
Applicant:	Shell Internationale Research Maatschappij B.V.	**Date of report:**	28 August 2002

Latest date for reply: 28 February 2003

Patents Act 1977
Examination Report under Section 18(3)

Basis of the examination

1. My examination has taken account of the amendments filed with your agent's letter of 21 May 2001.

Conciseness and plurality of invention

2. The claims do not meet the requirement of Section 14(5)(b) with regard to conciseness. Also your claims define a number of separate inventions not forming a single inventive concept. It would appear that the inventions are:
a) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claim 1 characterised by the first and second support members, manifold, expansion cone, tubular member, first, second and third interior chambers and shoe;
b) the method of and apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claims 2 & 3 characterised by the respective injection of first and second quantities of fluidic material below and above the expansion cone;
c) the apparatus for and method of coupling as claimed in claims 4 & 5 characterised by coupling elements mating with slots in the first and second members;
d) the apparatus for controlling the flow of fluidic materials within a housing as claimed in claim 6 characterised by the first to sixth passages and the throat passage;
e) the method of controlling the flow of fluidic materials within a housing as claimed in claim 7 characterised by the blocking of the inlet passage and opening of the outlet passage;
f) the apparatus of claim 8 characterised by the first and second tubular members, the first and second annular chambers, the annular piston, the annular sleeve, the third annular member and the inlet and outlet passages;
g) the method of applying an axial force to a first piston as claimed in claim 9 characterised by the use of a second piston;
h) the apparatus for and method of radially expanding a tubular member as claimed in claims 10 & 11 characterised by the lubrication of the interface between the expansion cone and the tubular member;
i) the apparatus of claim 12 characterised by the support member, the tubular member, the expansion cone and the preload assembly;
j) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claim 13 characterised by the support member, the manifold, the radial expansion assembly and the coupling assembly;
k) the apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in

[Examination Report contd.]

claim 14 characterised by the annular support member, the manifold, the force multiplier assembly, the expandable tubular member, the radial expansion assembly, the coupling assembly and the coupling device; and
l) the method of and apparatus for coupling a tubular member to a preexisting structure as claimed in claims 15 & 16 characterised by the decoupling of the support member from the tubular member.

3. You will need to amend your claims, so that they relate to only one invention or inventive concept. You will also need to make consequential amendments to the title and pages 2-7,10,11 and 78-88 of the description. Furthermore the detailed description should be amended to clearly indicate which embodiments lie within the scope of the invention. You may wish to consider filing divisional applications. Any such applications should normally be filed no later than 3 months before the expiry of the period for putting the present application in order.

Scope of search

4. In accordance with Section 17(6) and as a result of filing six further Form 9/77, inventions a), b), f), g), j), k), and l) have been searched. The other inventions can be searched if you wish. In this case you will have to file a further Form 9/77 for each of the additional inventions to be searched.

What this report covers

5. I have not been able to consider the novelty or obviousness of the unsearched inventions.

Non-metric units

6. The equivalent metric values should be given alongside the non-metric values mentioned throughout your specification.

Other

7. The US patent application serial no's should be inserted on pages 13-16, 39, 40, 43, 70 and 71.